

Applicant : Chen et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 05542-552001 / 8402/CPS

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of November 17, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 5, 12 and 18-20 have been amended. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-8, 13 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/098608 ("Kajiwara"). The applicant respectfully traverses, at least in part based on the amendments to the claims.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a retaining ring having a generally annular body with a top surface, a bottom surface, an inner diameter surface, and an outer diameter surface. The bottom surface has a plurality of channels, each channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface and having a rounded ceiling and substantially vertical side-walls.

Kajiwara describes a retaining ring 170 with a contoured lower surface 210 having an annular groove or recess 215 therein (FIGS. 11A, 11B, 12, page 17, lines 10-24). The annular grooves have a curved or hemispherical cross-section.

Kajiwara fails to suggest or disclose a retaining ring with a bottom surface that has a plurality of channels, each channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface and having a rounded ceiling. Rather, Kajiwara describes annular rings 215 with a curved or hemispherical cross-section. Annular rings do not extend from an inner to an outer diameter surface. Further, Kajiwara does not describe the grooves as having a rounded ceiling and substantially vertical side walls. Kajiwara describes the grooves as being curved or hemispherical, not as having both a rounded ceiling and substantially vertical side-walls. Nor are substantially vertical side-walls shown in FIG. 11B; the sidewalls shown in FIG. 11B "hav[e] a curved or hemispherical cross-sectional" shape (see page 17, lines 10-11). For at least these

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reasons, applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Kajiwara. Claims 2-5, 78, 13 and 18 depend from claim 1 and are similarly not anticipated by Kajiwara.

Amended claim 19 is directed to a carrier head having a retaining ring with a generally annular body having a top surface, a bottom surface, an inner diameter surface, and an outer diameter surface. The bottom surface has a plurality of channels, each channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface and having a rounded ceiling and substantially vertical side walls.

For at least the reasons provided above with respect to claim 1, the applicant submits that claim 19 is similarly not anticipated by Kajiwara.

Amended claim 20 requires a channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer diameter surface and having a rounded ceiling and substantially vertical side-walls. For at least the reasons provided above, the applicant submits that claim 20 is not anticipated by Kajiwara.

Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejections be withdrawn.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 9 was rejected as unpatentable over Kajiwara. The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and requires the limitations of claim 1.

For at least the reasons presented with respect to claim 1, the applicant submits that claim 9 is not unpatentable over Kajiwara.

Claims 10-12 and 14-17 were rejected as unpatentable over Kajiwara in view of U.S. Application No. 2003/0070757 ("DeMeyers"). The applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 10-12 and 14-17 depend from claim 1 and necessarily and require the limitations of claim 1.

DeMeyers fails to suggest or disclose a retaining ring with a bottom surface that has a plurality of channels, each channel extending from the inner diameter surface to the outer

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diameter surface and having a rounded ceiling. For at least this reason, applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to claims 10-12 and 14-17.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections be withdrawn.

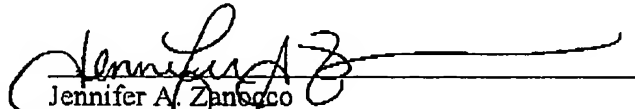
Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant notes that the Examiner has not yet initialed any of the references listed on the second page of the PTO-1449 submitted on September 1, 2004. The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate that these three reference were considered. The applicant has included a copy of this page with the response.

Please apply the one-month extension of time fee in the amount of \$120.00 and any other required charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 17, 2006


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